

**From:** Joshua Levin <joshlevin11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 7:18 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing out of concern regarding monopolistic processes in our seed, and therefore food, supply. Monsanto's monopolistic business strategy not only gives them unfair pricing power, hurting competition and consumers; their strategy in fact poses a deeper threat to our entire society by reducing diversity in the "portfolio" of food sources. Our gene banks are indeed akin to a financial portfolio. Returns must be adjusted for risk, otherwise time will adjust those returns for us. . . e.g. the Irish potato famine.

Furthermore, Monsanto does not deserve pricing power over these seeds. They have achieved patents through changes in a minuscule portion of the plant DNA, whereas their base material was developed by society at large through many millennia of artificial selection by countless, unnamed farmers. Monsanto has benefited from this. Is it fair for them to then turn around and hurt our society with these patents?

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joshua Levin

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